

NAVAJO COUNTY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Cibecue Community Signs Up for Ready Navajo County

Supervisor Whitesinger and her family were providing information to citizens of the Cibecue community on how to sign up for the emergency notification system. KNNB radio did a live remote broadcast and Gwendena Real Bird helped coordinate the event. CellularOne provided The canopies, tables, hot dogs and water . Navajo County Recorder Laura Sanchez was also on hand to assist voters with registration and election information Equipment was on display from the White Mountain Apache Fire Chiefs and Emergency Management and the Native 8 helicopter and crew . Our sincere thanks to all who put this event together so that citizens can be informed in the event of emergencies.



What is Emergency Communications (RACES)

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service - Is a network of licensed amateur radio operators who provide communication services during times of emergencies. The designated emergency contact for the regional RACES group is Karl Collett from Taylor. RACES members may transmit only messages related to: 1) Impending danger to the public or affecting national defense during emergencies; 2) The immediate safety of individuals, the immediate protection of property, maintenance of law and order, alleviation of human suffering and need, and combating armed attack and sabotage; 3) The dissemination of information to the public from a local civil defense organization or other government or relief organization and; 4) Communications during RACES drills.

It is important to recognize that the amateur radio stations participating in RACES are activated by their local emergency management organizations for this specific purpose. The operators are a valuable resource that provides emergency communication capabilities to their community. The key component of the RACES program is the direct and recognized affiliation between the amateur radio operators and local emergency management since RACES may provide a critical alternative communications link for local agencies.

Heber-Overgaard Fire Provides Traffic Control Training

Tony Cantarella from the Heber-Overgaard Fire Department worked with the Snowflake-Taylor CERT Team providing them traffic control training so they can assist local jurisdictions in the event of a planned event or emergency requiring their support. The training was conducted on March 26 at the Northeast Arizona Training Institute and provided CERT members with classroom and hands on training.

Joseph City Founder's Day Celebration Provides Opportunity for Sign Ups

Catrina Jenkins and Mary Springer were on hand after walking the Founder's Day parade route with Supervisor Whiting, Sheriff KC Clark and others to sign up local residents for Ready Navajo County. The Emergency Management Team showed Jesse Bushman, CERT Team Program Manager, how the system can be used to contact the Joseph City CERT team by sending out a single message and giving them the ability to reply.

Emergency Management News

Community Values Committee

Navajo County Emergency Management is working to strengthen partnerships with the local volunteer and community organizations. One such group is the Community Values Committee comprised of local leaders from Snowflake and Taylor businesses, town councils, law enforcement, fire, CERT Team, municipal court, schools, faith-based, medical, and volunteers. The committee is currently working on their mission statement that captures the mission of resilience and emergency awareness and preparedness within the communities. Whitney Roberts with Arizona Department of Emergency and Military affairs is working to help connect the various service organizations to help form a framework of community partnerships in both Apache and Navajo Counties.

Northern Arizona Regional Advisory Committee

March 29, 2016 - The Northern RAC met to review the thirty projects that were submitted for Homeland Security grant projects. Homeland Security grant funding allocated for the Northern RAC is \$354,223. Prior to the meeting each RAC member reviewed the merits of the thirty projects and scored them based on the strategic priorities and critical core capabilities. Interoperable communications was the most critical capability the committee agreed should be considered for funding. Confirmation of the selected projects for funding will take place at the August meeting to be held in Eagar.

Public Health Preparedness Evacuation and Re-Entry Training

On March 10-11 PHEP staff attended an Evacuation and Re-entry Planning training held in Flagstaff. There the staff learned about things to consider when making evacuation and re-entry plans. The training consisted of personnel from Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Tribal, Fire, DEMA and Red Cross.

Joint Fire & Law Enforcement Preparedness

March 24, 2016 was quite the busy meeting day for leaders in local fire and law enforcement. Heber-Overgaard Fire Department hosted the Northeastern Arizona Fire Chief's meeting, then immediately following was the wildfire preparedness meeting then topped off with the face-to-face joint fire and law enforcement White Mountain Fire Restrictions Working Group (WMFRWG) meeting. Tony Merriman from the National Weather Service gave a seasonal forecast. Forest service discussed the current dry conditions and the early start to the wildfire season. The 2016 law enforcement incident management plan was distributed to those in attendance and weekly WMFRWG teleconferences began March 31 and will continue until sufficient monsoonal moisture provides an

Coming Attractions - May 2016

- ◆ Health Preparedness Symposium
- ◆ National Preparedness Summit
- ◆ Arizona 2016 Zika Summit
- ◆ Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Plan Training
- ◆ Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operations Plan get updated
- ◆ Multi-Year Training Plan

